

Message Text

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ACTION VO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00
NSAE-00 CA-01 PPT-01 L-03 CPR-01 SS-15 /038 W
-----112388 252043Z /70
R 251030Z MAY 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, CASC, SA

REF (A) STATE 128498 (B) JIDDA 2832

SUBJECT; SAUDI VISA REGULATIONS

1. IN MEETING MAY 24 WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR,
DR. IBRAHIM AL AWAJI, USLO OFFICERS DISCUSSED TWO ASPECTS
OF CURRENT SAUDI VISA REGULATIONS THAT ARE CAUSING SOME
DIFFICULTIES: 1) ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN
OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE AND 2) ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO FAMILY
MEMBERS AT SAME TIME AS PRINCIPAL.

2. WE REMINDED AL AWAJI OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S DECREE
LAST YEAR WHICH EXEMPTED AMERICANS AND WEST EUROPEANS FROM
A NEW RULE THAT PROHIBITED ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO ALL
DEPENDENTS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE. AL-AWAJI REMEMBERED SUBJECT
AND SAID WE WOULD BE HAVING NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING
VISITOR VISAS FOR CHILDREN OVER 18 WHO WISH TO JOIN THEIR
FAMILY IN KINGDOM DURING SUMMER SCHOOL BREAK. WE
TOLD HIM THAT, IN FACT, WE WERE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICE
IN RIYADH CLAIMS IT NEVER RECEIVED THE EXCEPTION NOTICE
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CIRCULATED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN JIDDA; THEREFORE,
THEY WERE CONTINUING TO REFUSE VISAS TO DEPENDENTS OVER 18. WE
ALSO POINTED TO RECENT INFORMATION (JIDDA 3832)
SOME SAUDI DIPLOMATIC POSTS INCLUDING NEW YORK WERE NOW
TALKING IN TERMS OF A 16 YEAR OLD CUT OFF.

3. AL AWAJI SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET SAUDI EMBASSIES

TO BE UNIFORM IN THEIR APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS. EACH CONSULAR OFFICER COULD ACT AS HE WISHED. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S PROBLEM WAS THAT THERE ARE SOME POSTS THAT ARE SO EASY THAT EVEN BLACKLISTED INDIVIDUALS GET VISAS. HE ASKED US TO FURNISH HIM A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL NOTICE EXEMPTING AMERICANS AND WESTERNERS (WHICH IS BY THE WAY SECRET) AND HE WOULD STAMP IT AND SEND IT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICE IN RIYADH OR OTHER POSTS WHICH ARE NOT FOLLOWING IT.

4. WE ASKED WHETHER SAUDI VISA REGULATIONS REQUIRED PRINCIPAL (THE ADULT MALE) TO ENTER THE KINGDOM ALONE AND WAIT 90 DAYS BEFORE BRINGING HIS FAMILY. AL AWAJI SAID NO SUCH RULE EXISTED. ONLY MINISTRY NOTICE WHICH BORE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS INSTRUCTION THAT ONLY FAMILIES OF EDUCATED AND PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS ENGINEERS, SCHOOL TEACHERS, ARCHITECTS, DOCTORS, ETC. WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BRING FAMILIES TO RESIDE IN KINGDOM. HE SAID EGYPTIANS AND PAKISTANIS, IN PARTICULAR, WERE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF RICH SAUDI TILL AND BRINGING ALL THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TO KINGDOM. SAUDI ARABI CANNOT BE PAKISTAN'S SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY.

5. AL AWAJI NOTED HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE NEW BUREAU WITHIN THE MINISTRY WHICH IS TRYING TO REGISTER ALL ILLEGAL ALIENS IN COUNTRY. HE SAID THE BUREAU WAS DOING VERY WELL AND WOULD HAVE A RECORD OF MOST ILLEGAL ALIENS BY END OF SIX WEEKS GRACE PERIOD NOW LEFT FOR THEM TO DECLARE THEMSELVES. HE SAID THAT WHEN TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMIT EXPIRED, SAUDI POLICE WOULD COMB COUNTRY CHECKING ID'S AND UNREGISTERED ILLEGAL ALIENS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN DEEP TROUBLE AS WOULD COMPANIES WHICH EMPLOY THEM.

6. COMMENT: THE UNDERLYING THREAD IS SAG INABILITY TO CONTROL LARGE NUMBER OF NON-SAUDIS IN KINGDOM. REGULATIONS ARE WRITTEN AND DECREES ARE ISSUED. RESULT IS CHAOS AND CONFUSION AS OFFICIALS FROM TOP DOWN TRY TO DECIDE WHAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO DO AND THEN WHAT THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH. WE CAN TALK AND WE CAN GET CLARIFICATIONS OF VISA POLICY. SOMETIMES WE EVEN GET IMPROVEMENT, BUT IT IS A CONSTANT GAME OF QUOTE QUICK STEP - STAY AHEAD UNQUOTE AND, IN THE END QUOTE KNOW YOUR MAN UNQUOTE.
GNEHM

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780519/aaaaapry.tel
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